

John became a Freemason as a 21 year old lewis in St Aidan Lodge in his home town of Blackhill near Consett in 1984.

At the time of his initiation John was a Detective Constable having already completed 5 years police service after joining Durham Constabulary as a Cadet in 1979. During the 1980's his police career took him on major enquiries throughout the UK but by 1990 he had settled as a Sergeant in his home town and was Exalted into Constance Chapter. The following year he became the WM of St Aidan Lodge. In 1993 he joined Lambton Lodge and was a founder of Lambton Chapter in 1995 and Hammurabi Lodge in 1996. He was 1st Principal of Constance Chapter and Master of Hammurabi Lodge in 2001, Master of Lambton Lodge and 1st Principal of Lambton Chapter in 2004.

He first received Provincial rank as Acting Sword Bearer in the Craft (1999) and Chapter (2006), was Provincial Deputy Director of Ceremonies from 2001 to 2004 and appointed as Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies in 2004 John was the Provincial Information Officer and was appointed Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies in the Royal Arch in 2010. He was appointed Assistant Provincial Grand Master in 2012 a post he held until 2018 to which he was subsequently reappointed in 2022 prior to his current appointment that of Deputy Provincial Grand Master in 2024.

Retiring from the Police as a Detective Inspector in 2011 he received the Northumbria Police Lifetime Achievement Award and subsequently attended the annual national police awards ceremony where he was 'specially commended' by the Home Secretary.

John is Chairman of the recently rebranded Durham Freemasons Charity, and an active member of many of the Companion Orders

He is Head of the Order of the Secret Monitor for the North-East Province, provincial secretary of the Scarlet Cord and currently a Grand Steward in Mark Masonry.

In 2013 John had the great honour of proposing the re-election of HRH The Duke of Kent as our Grand Master at the quarterly communication of Grand Lodge in March and was appointed as the Senior Grand Deacon at the Annual Investiture the same year.

He lives with partner Mark, an Architect, at a marina development on Newcastle's Quayside and in any spare time enjoys foreign travel, caravanning in Northumberland, DIY, gardening, and motoring including being a volunteer Blood Bike rider and a Widows Son masonic motorcyclist.